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# State of Utah

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER  
Executive Director

### Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

JOHN R. BAZA  
Division Director

March 11, 2016

Miles Hanberg  
Habitat Manager  
Division of Wildlife Resources – Northeastern Field Office  
Interoffice Mail

Subject: 2015 Greater Sage-grouse Habitat Assessment Report, Simplot Phosphates LLC, Vernal Phosphate Operation, M/047/0007 Uintah County, Utah

Dear Mr. Hanberg:

Enclosed is a 2015 Greater Sage-grouse Habitat Assessment Report prepared by HDR, Inc., on behalf of Simplot Phosphate Operations, LLC, and submitted to the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (Division). This report takes into account previous coordination with the Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) to develop this revised work plan.

The Division requests that DWR review the report and provide comments, as necessary. Furthermore, if there are areas within the Simplot private surface and mineral property boundaries shown on the maps in this report where DWR feels habitat improvements can be made, please provide those recommendations to the Division. We would be happy to coordinate an on-site field visit to discuss and eventually implement habitat improvements recommended if deemed appropriate by DWR.

Thank you for your assistance. Please contact April Abate at 801-538-5214 if you would like to discuss these issues further.

Sincerely,

Paul Baker  
Minerals Program Manager

PBB: aa: eb

Enclosure: 2015 Greater Sage-grouse Habitat Assessment Report

cc: Michael Murray, HDR, Inc. 412 E. Parkcenter Blvd. Suite 100, Boise, ID 83706

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